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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MUNICH 02160 141052Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W
---------- 101474
R 141030Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7465
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION US BERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS MUNICH 2160

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: STRAUSS ADDS NEW WRINKLE TO TV DEBATE ISSUE

1. CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS HAS NOW MADE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PROS AND CONS OF SCHMIDT-KOHL OR SCHMIDT-KOHL-GENSCHER-STRAUSS TV DEBATES.

2. SPEAKING AT AN ELECTION RALLY IN MUNICH SEPTEMBER 12, STRAUSS PRESENTED TWO ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN TV DEBATES. THERE SHOULD EITHER BE A FOUR-SIDED DEBATE BE-TWEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUR LEADING PARTIES (SPD, CDU, CSU AND FDP), SAID STRAUSS, OR ATWO-SIDED DEBATE BETWEEN THE TWO CHANCELLOR CANDIDATES, SCHMIDT AND KOHL.

3. COMMENT: STRUASS' PROPOSAL IS A CAMPAIGN GAMBIT DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS THE SPD AND FDP. SCHMIDT HAS ALREADY RULED OUT A FACE TO FACE DEBATE WITH KOHL, AND THE SPD OBVIOUSLY WILL NOT ACCEPT A FOUR-SIDED DEBATE IN WHICH SCHMIDT WOULD NOT BE A PARTICIPANT.GILMORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MUNICH02160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760346-0507
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760963/aaaacbmp.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRAUSS ADDS NEW WRINKLE TO TV DEBATE ISSUE
TAGS: PINT, GE, (STRAUSS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006